

The Wildfire Hazard Assessment Worksheet *

The Wildfire Hazard Assessment form covers five factors that influence potential fire behavior. Each factor gets a point rating for the degree of fire hazard it contributes. For each factor on the form, there is a choice of three point rating selections. To calculate the hazard level for the area, add the individual point rating scores for each factor. Use the rating scale at the bottom of the form to determine if your hazard is low, moderate, high, or extreme. Appropriate action should be developed to mitigate an unacceptable rating.

Wildfire Hazard Characteristics and Point Ratings					Score
Forest Vegetation (Overstory): Crown forest fires present a significant hazard to rapid spread. Crown fire is more likely to occur and spread rapidly in dense coniferous forests than in mixed-wood or deciduous forests.					20
Deciduous	Mixed wood	Coniferous			
(+3)	(+10)	Separated	Continuous		
		(+15)	(+20)		
Surface Vegetation: Surface vegetation includes grasses, herbs, shrubs, dead and down woody (logs, branches, and twigs), and immature trees up to 8 feet in height. Concentrations of surface fuels will sustain high-intensity surface fires and can initiate crown fires.					15
Lawn or non-combustible material	Wild grass or shrubs	Dead & down woody material			
(0)	(+5)	Scattered	Abundant		
		(+5)	(+15)		
Ladder Fuels: Ladder fuels are shrubs, immature trees and branches extending near the ground (e.g. within 6 feet) that give surface fires a pathway to the upper canopies of the trees.					10
Absent	Scattered	Continuous			
(0)	(+5)	(+10)			
Slope: Slope has a direct effect on fire's rate of spread: the steeper the slope, the faster the rate of spread. Even slopes have a smooth or rolling texture. Gullied slopes have cuts running up the slope, usually from water erosion, that provide funnels for upslope wind-driven fire spread.					0
0 – 10%	10 – 25%		> 25%		
(0)	Even	Gullied	Even	Gullied	
	(+4)	(+5)	(+8)	(+10)	
Slope Position: The location of the zone or site on the slope will affect the fire hazard levels. In general, locations higher up on the slopes with fuels below face a significantly higher fire hazard from rapid, high-intensity fire spread up the slope.					0
Valley bottom or lower slope	Mid-slope		Upper-slope		
(0)	(+3)		(+5)		
Total Score for Factors					45
HAZARD LEVEL	Low <21 points	Moderate 21-29 points	High 30-35 points	Extreme >35 points	

* This assessment form was adapted from Saskatchewan Environment and Resource Management (SERM), "FireSmart: Protecting Your Home From Wildfire".